

**Challenge Words**

microbiology  
microclimate  
microfiche  
Micronesia  
microsecond

2. **microcosm** (mī'krə kōz'əm) [*kosmos* <G. "universe"]  
*n.* A miniature world; something that resembles something else on a very small scale.

A school community is a **microcosm** of the whole society in which it exists.

**microcosmic**, *adj.*

**Familiar Words**

diminish  
menu  
minor  
minus  
minute

**MINUO, MINUERE, MINUI, MINUTUM** <L. "to lessen"  
**MINUS** <L. "less"

3. **minuscule** (mīn'ə skyōōl')  
*adj.* Extremely small.

The dollhouse was furnished in every detail, including **minuscule** silverware and napkin rings.

4. **minutia** (mī nōō'shē ə, mī nōō'shə, mī nyōō'shə;  
plural **minutiae**: mī nōō'shē ē')  
*n.* A small or trivial detail.

A seemingly insignificant **minutia**—like a fragment of bone or a pottery chip—can yield important information at an archeological site.

**Challenge Words**

mince  
minuet

**Challenge Word**

extenuate

**TENUO, TENUARE, TENUAVI, TENUATUM** <L. "to make thin"  
**TENUIS** <L. "thin"

5. **attenuate** (ə ten'yōō āt) [*at* = *ad* <L. "to," "toward"]  
*tr. v.* 1. To make slender or small.

Famine had **attenuated** the population of the village to a few dozen people.

2. To weaken; to reduce in force or value.

The forest of tall trees **attenuated** the force of the gale before it hit the town.

6. **tenuous** (tēn'yōō əs)  
*adj.* 1. Thin in form.

The spider spun a web of **tenuous** threads.

2. Flimsy; having little substance or validity.

Most students have only a **tenuous** grasp of economics.

**tenuously**, *adv.*

